

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-26 (Canceled).

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): ~~A polypeptide~~ An isolated polypeptide molecule containing at least 10 consecutive amino acids of the ~~an amino acid sequence shown in~~ Figure 2, (SEQ ID NO: 2) of SEQ ID NO: 3,

with the proviso that all or part of one or more polypeptides selected from the group consisting of the following polypeptides are excluded:

- (i) RDELFNELLNSVDVNGEVKENILEESQVNDDIFNSLVKSVQQ
EQQHNVEE (SEQ ID NO: 10)
- (ii) VEESVEENDEESVEENVEENVENNDDGSVASSVEESIASSV
DESIDSSIEENVAPTVEEIVAPTVEEIVAPSWEKCAPSVEESVAPSVEES
VAEMLKER (729S, SEQ ID NO: 11),
- (iii) RDELFNELLNSVDVNGEVKENILEESQVNDDIFNSLVKSVQQEQQHN
(SEQ ID NO: 12),
- (iv) DELFNELLNSVDVNGEVKENILEESQ (NRI, SEQ ID NO: 13),
- (v) LEESQVNDDIFSNSLVKSVQQEQQHNV (NRII, SEQ ID NO: 14), and
- (vi) VESVAPSVEESVAPSVEESVAENVESV (729RE, SEQ ID NO: 15).

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): The isolated polypeptide molecule of Claim 27, containing at least 20 consecutive amino acids of the ~~said~~ amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): The isolated polypeptide molecule of Claim 27, containing at least 50 consecutive amino acids of the said amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.

Claim 30 (Withdrawn; Currently Amended) ~~A polypeptide~~ An isolated polypeptide molecule ~~displaying~~ having at least 70% homology with the polypeptide molecule of Claim 27.

Claim 31 (Withdrawn; Currently Amended): A polypeptide molecule ~~displaying~~ having at least 70% homology with the following sequence:

Leu Leu Ser Asn Ile Glu Glu Pro Lys Glu Asn Ile Ile Asp Asn Leu Leu Asn Asn Ile
(CT1 ; SEQ ID NO : 16).

Claim 32 (Withdrawn; Currently Amended): The isolated polypeptide molecule according to Claim 27, displaying at least 70% homology with ~~the sequence depicted in Figure 3 (SEQ ID NO: 4)~~ SEQ ID NO: 3.

Claim 33 (Withdrawn; Currently Amended): A method of *in vitro* diagnosis of malaria in an individual likely to be infected by *P. falciparum*, which comprises the bringing of a tissue or biological fluid taken from an individual into contact with a polypeptide molecule according to Claim 27, under conditions permitting an immunological reaction between the said polypeptide molecule and the antibodies possibly present in the tissue or the biological fluid, and the *in vitro* detection of the antigen/antibody complexes possibly formed.

Claim 34 (Withdrawn; Currently Amended): The method of Claim 33, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the tissue or biological fluid is brought into contact with a mixture of polypeptide molecules and other molecules originating from antigens of the sporozoite stage, namely LSA-1, SALSA or STARP.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): A kit for the in vitro diagnosis of malaria, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising at least one polypeptide ~~molecules~~ molecule according to Claim 27, ~~the reagents for making up the appropriate medium for the reaction, and the reagents enabling the antigen/antibody complexes produced by the immunological reaction to be detected, it also being possible for these reagents to carry a label or to be capable of being recognized in their turn by a labeled reagent, more especially in the case where the above-mentioned polypeptide molecule is not labeled.~~

Claim 36 (Withdrawn; Currently Amended): A kit for the in vitro diagnosis of malaria, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising at least one polypeptide ~~molecules~~ molecule according to Claim 30, ~~the reagents for making up the appropriate medium for the reaction, and the reagents enabling the antigen/antibody complexes produced by the immunological reaction to be detected, it also being possible for these reagents to carry a label or to be capable of being recognized in their turn by a labeled reagent, more especially in the case where the above-mentioned polypeptide molecule is not labeled.~~

Claim 37 (Withdrawn; Currently Amended): A kit for the in vitro diagnosis of malaria, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising at least one polypeptide ~~molecules~~ molecule according to Claim 31, ~~the reagents for making up the appropriate medium for the reaction, and the reagents enabling the antigen/antibody complexes produced by the~~

immunological reaction to be detected, ~~it also being possible for these reagents to carry a label or to be capable of being recognized in their turn by a labeled reagent, more especially in the case where the above-mentioned polypeptide molecule is not labeled.~~

Claim 38 (Withdrawn; Currently Amended): A kit for the in vitro diagnosis of malaria, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising at least one polypeptide ~~molecules~~ molecule according to Claim 32, ~~the reagents for making up the appropriate medium for the reaction, and the reagents enabling the antigen/antibody complexes produced by the immunological reaction to be detected, it also being possible for these reagents to carry a label or to be capable of being recognized in their turn by a labeled reagent, more especially in the case where the above-mentioned polypeptide molecule is not labeled.~~

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): A conjugate consisting of ~~a polypeptide~~ the polypeptide molecule according to Claim 27 and a support on which ~~the~~ said molecule is adsorbed.

Claim 40 (Withdrawn; Currently Amended): A conjugate consisting of ~~a polypeptide~~ the polypeptide molecule according to Claim 30 and a support on which ~~the~~ said molecule is adsorbed.

Claim 41 (Withdrawn; Currently Amended): A conjugate consisting of ~~a polypeptide~~ the polypeptide molecule according to Claim 31 and a support on which ~~the~~ said molecule is adsorbed.

Claim 42 (Withdrawn; Currently Amended): A conjugate consisting of ~~a polypeptide~~ the polypeptide molecule according to Claim 32 and a support on which ~~the~~ said molecule is adsorbed.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): A conjugate consisting of ~~a polypeptide~~ the polypeptide molecule according to ~~Claim 33~~ Claim 29 and a support on which ~~the~~ said molecule is adsorbed.

Claim 44 (Currently Amended): The conjugate of Claim 39, wherein the support is selected from the group consisting of latex, consists of latex or polystyrene microspheres, and or beads.

Claim 45 (Withdrawn; Currently Amended): The conjugate of Claim 40, wherein the support is selected from the group consisting of latex, consists of latex or polystyrene microspheres, and or beads.

Claim 46 (Withdrawn; Currently Amended): The conjugate of Claim 41, wherein the support is selected from the group consisting of latex, consists of latex or polystyrene microspheres, and or beads.

Claim 47 (Withdrawn; Currently Amended): The conjugate of Claim 42, wherein the support is selected from the group consisting of latex, consists of latex or polystyrene microspheres, and or beads.

Claim 48 (Currently Amended): The conjugate of Claim 43, wherein the support is selected from the group consisting of latex, ~~consists of latex or~~ polystyrene microspheres, and ~~or~~ beads.

Claim 49 (Withdrawn; Currently Amended): An isolated nucleic acid, containing a sequence coding for a polypeptide molecule containing at least 10 consecutive amino acids of the amino acid sequence ~~shown in Figure 2, (SEQ ID NO: 2)~~ of SEQ ID NO: 3,

with the proviso that all or part of one or more polypeptides selected from the group consisting of the following polypeptides are excluded:

- (i) RDELFNELLNSVDVNGEVKENILEESQVNDDIFNSLVKSVQQEQQHNV
EE (SEQ ID NO: 10),
- (ii) VEESVEENDEESVEENVEENVENNDDGSVASSVEESIASSVDESIDSSIE
ENVAPTVEEIVAPTVEEIVAPSVVEKCAPSVEESVAPSVEESVAEMLKE
R (729S, SEQ ID NO: 11),
- (iii) RDELFNELLNSVDVNGEVKENILEESQVNDDIFNSLVKSVQQEQQHNV
(SEQ ID NO: 12),
- (iv) DELFNELLNSVDVNGEVKENILEESQ (NRI, SEQ ID NO: 13),
- (v) LEESQVNDDIFSNSLVKSVQQEQQHNV (NRII, SEQ ID NO: 14), and
- (vi) VESVAPSVEESVAPSVEESVAENVESV (729RE, SEQ ID NO: 15).

Claim 50 (Withdrawn): A recombinant vector containing the nucleic acid of Claim 49.

Claim 51 (Withdrawn): The vector of Claim 50, which is a plasmid, cosmid, or phage.

Claim 52 (Withdrawn; Currently Amended): A recombinant vector suitable for expression of a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid of Claim 49, containing a nucleic acid in a region which is not essential for the replication of the vector, wherein the vector is selected from the group consisting of ~~plasmids, cosmids, and phages~~ a plasmid, a cosmid, and a phage.

Claim 53 (Withdrawn): A method of producing an immunogenic polypeptide, comprising administering the nucleic acid of Claim 49 to a host cell, wherein the host cell produces an immunogenic polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid.

Claim 54 (Withdrawn): A method of producing an immunogenic polypeptide, comprising administering the vector of Claim 50 to a host cell, wherein the host cell produces an immunogenic polypeptide encoded by the vector.

Claim 55 (New): The isolated polypeptide molecule according to Claim 27, wherein said isolated polypeptide further comprises an additional polypeptide selected from the group consisting of a Liver Stage Specific Antigen 1 (LSA-1), a sporozoite and liver-stage antigen (SALSA), and a sporozoite threonine and asparagine-rich protein (STARP).

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-26 were previously canceled.

Claims 27-50 and 52 have been amended.

Claim 55 has been added.

The specification has been amended to correct a typographical error on page 1 and to remove the term "[sic]" from page 9. The specification has also been amended to insert the issued patent number of the parent application

Claims 27-50 and 52 have been amended to improve the overall clarity of the present claims. New Claim 55 is supported by page 7 of the specification as originally filed.

No new matter has been added by the present amendments.